However, a notification titled, "wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008, has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on. 11.2.2008. The order provided that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish a return to Secretary, Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. A return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.

A similar notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 29.09.2008 for declaration of purchase of rice by private companies in Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09.

Price of pulses and foodgrains

823. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the price of pulses and foodgrains in the open market and under the Public Distribution System in the last one year;

(b) whether Government is considering any measures to improve the quality of the PDS in the country;

(c) whether more items would be allowed to be sold through the PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Prices of pulses and foodgrains are monitored by the Government. Prices of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under the PDS and in the open market (retail prices at Delhi centre) are indicated below:

(Rs. per kg.)

Commodity	APL	BPL	AAY	Retail Price at Delhi (as on 21.10.08)
Rice	8.30	5.65	3.00	22.00
Wheat	6.10	4.15	2.00	13.00

Among foodgrains, only rice and wheat are distributed through PDS, pulses are not distributed through the PDS.

(b) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State / UT Governments.

Government has been continuously taking steps to strengthen the TPDS by improving its efficiency. Government got the TPDS evaluated by PEO (Planning Commission) and ORG MARG.

Certain shortcomings were pointed out in their evaluation reports received in 2005. In view of these reports, to strengthen the TPDS and to curb leakages & diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS, in consultation with State and UT Governments, the Government evolved a 9-point Action Plan in 2006. This includes measures such as review of BPL and AAY lists for exclusion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families ensuring leakage free distribution by taking penal action against those found indulging in malpractices, involvement of Panchyati Raj Institutions in functioning of FPS, display of BPL and AAY lists at fair price shops, door step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops, etc. The Action Plan is under implementation in States and UTs since July 2006 and is being closely monitored by FPS level Vigilance Committees.

The Government has taken various other measures to improve functioning of the TPDS. A Revised Citizens' Charter has been issued and is being implemented since July 2007. Monthly certification of delivery of allocated foodgrains to FPS and their distribution to ration card holders has been introduced from April 2008. Training programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS operations has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System to monitor movement of foodgrains under TPDS has been undertaken on a pilot basis. Policy guidelines have also been issued on distribution of wheat flour under the TPDS, so that the poor families are benefited. For increasing awareness on TPDS, publicity-cum-awareness campaign is also being taken up.

(c) and (d) At present Central Government makes available wheat, rice, course grains and Kerosene under TPDS to the State/UT Governments for distribution through FPS. There is no proposal to distribute other items through TPDS. However, in view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments for issue through Fair Price Shops (FPS) at subsidized prices to BPL families including AAY families. In addition, the State/UT Governments have been requested to allow FPS owners to sell additional Non-PDS items to make FPS viable. Some of the State/UT Governments are selling Non-PDS items through FPS as per details given in the Statement.

Statement

Additional commodities being distributed through PDS outlets other than wheat, rice, coarsegrain, sugar & kerosene oil (as reported by respective State/UT)

(As on 30.9.2008)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of Item/Commodity
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	Enriched Wheat floor, Iodized Salt (G.M), Red Gram Dal, Tamarind, P. Oil, Black Gram Dal, Green Gram Dal, Palmolein Oil
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Edible Oil, Pulses, Vanaspati Ghee, Milk Powder, Baby Food, Dry Cells, Matches, All types of soap, Paper including newsprint,paper boar & straw boar, Hurricane Lanterns, Lead writing pencils, Exercise books, Butter, Tea, Yarn

1	2	3
3	Assam	1. Iodised salt under State Zonal quota
4	Bihar	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS
5	Chhattisgarh	Iodized Amrit Salt
6	Delhi	No additional commodities is sold through FPS on subsidized rates
7	Goa	**Taluka Mormugao, Goa** Sugar (Open Market), Turdal, Masur dal, Vartana, Harbour, Chana dal, Joggary, Rava, Atta, Maida **Taluka Sanguem, Goa** Onion, Potatoes, Tea Powder do branded packets, Iodised Salt, Palmolein Oil, Veg. Ghee Packets, Sugar, Rava, Maida, Atta, Turdal, Masurdal, Chana Dal, Moong dal, Urad dal, etc.
8	Gujarat	Iodized Salt, Edible Oil
9	Haryana	The State Govt. has issued instructions to all District Food & Supply Officer to sell also items other than PDS items *i.e.* Pulses, Copies, Vegetable Oil, Candle, Match Box, Salt and Soap through FPS and the State Govt. has no objection in regard.
10	Himachal Pradesh	Dal Malka, Dal Channa, Urad Sabut, Mustard Oil, Refind Oil, Iodized Oil.
11	J & K	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
12	Jharkhand	Iodised Salt
13	Karnataka	1. Crystal (Common) and free flow salt brand name: suruchi Iodised Salt. 2. Condom
14	Kerala	Green Gram, U.D. Washed, U.D Split, B.G.Bold, Lobia, Toordhal, Peasdhal, Chillies, Corriander, Cuminseed, Mustard, Methi, Sabari tea, Sabari Palm Oil 1 ltr., Free flow salt 1 kg., Crystal Salt 1 kg.
15	Madhya Pradesh	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
16	Maharashtra	Not reported
17	Manipur	Not reported
18	Meghalaya	Not reported
19	Mizoram	Nil

1	2	3
20	Nagaland	Not reported
21	Orissa	The Govt. has allowed to FPS owners to sale non-PDS commodities in FPS. FPS have been allowed to operate Public Telephone Booth
22	Punjab	Not reported
23	Rajasthan	Iodized Salt
24	Sikkim	FPSs in the State are permitted to sell all consumer items, however, no subsidy is provided to the additional items/ commodities sold by them.
25	Tamil Nadu	Toor Dhal, Oral Dhal, Palm Oil, Rava, Maida Atta (wheat is converted into whole meal atta), Iodized Salt in I(one) kg poly packet
27	Uttaranchal	Not reported
28	Uttar Pradesh	Soap, Toothpaste, Oil, Pulses, Iodized Salt, Tea, ORS Tablet, Condom & Sanitary napkins
29	West Bengal	a) Mustard Oil, Iodized Salt
30	A & N Islands	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
31	Chandigarh	FPS are granted to the karyana merchants who apart from distributing the Essential commodities under TPDS to BPL & AAY are also retailing grocery items and other items of daily use like Toothpaste, soaps, detergent powder, tea, salt, match boxes etc.
32	D & N Haveli	No item other than PDS items is sold through FPS.
33	Daman & Diu	Not reported
34	Lakshadweep	Not reported
35	Pondicherry	Toor Dhall, Black Gram dhall, Coriander, Chillies, Iodised, Powdered salt, Tamarind, Palm Oil.

Online ration card system

824. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ration card system is available on the online system in the country;

(b) the names of the States where information regarding ration cards is available on the website of the State Governments; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to introduce e-governance in ration card system along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As reported by Chhattisgarh Government, ration cards issued are available on website of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department. Information in respect of other States/UTs is not available. However, 18 States have reported that allocation of foodgrains under TPDS are displayed on website.